

Mr. Speaker, I will continue this Special Order later this week, and I thank this soldier so much for his courage to tell what he personally lived in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HENSARLING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KING of Iowa addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REASONABLE IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thought today was a particularly relevant day to talk about protecting America against terrorism and reinforcing what I believe is a belief of all Americans, that immigration does not equate to terrorism.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because this morning we heard a brilliant message from the Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister Singh, who talked about a new day in America's relationship with India. As we are called the oldest democracy, India is called the largest democracy.

In his conversation, he talked about democracy empowering women, he talked about the reasonable use of nuclear energy, the need that India had in promoting the use of civil nuclear energy as opposed to any use of it for weapons and their commitment to non-proliferation. But he also talked about the cultural exchange and the value of the Indian-American community and the Indian community in India, and the United States building on a relationship.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what that means is that we have a reasonable response to immigration because in order to have that cultural exchange, certainly those individuals from India would have to utilize visas to come to this country, for example, the J-1 visa which helps bring physicians to the United States to serve in rural and underserved areas.

So I say to this body, we cannot hide in the sand on the question of immigration. And I believe the American people are reasonable people.

The ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration on the House Committee on the Judiciary, I have called for a full hearing on all of the bills that have been offered by my colleagues, the Kennedy-McCain bill which I support, and of course many others.

Today and yesterday, two bills were offered by our friends, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and Senator CORZINE. I would say that all of those bills need to be heard; but I would caution, you cannot have an immigration bill that is only about enforcement, because so many of us come from immigrant backgrounds and we understand the value of reuniting those who are here legally with their family members. Because our system of immigration is broken, we have not been able to do that. That creates illegal immigration.

Even in a document that talks about America's views on immigration, it says in terms of protecting us against terrorism, Americans do want to have closed, secure borders and they want the borders to be protected. Twenty percent say that. But in terms of being careful about those who enter this country and pay attention to immigration, it is not overwhelming, though it is certainly 13 percent of Americans say pay attention to immigration. That does not say close the doors to immigration. That is why I offer a commonsense answer to immigration reform.

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My bill is called H.R. 2092, Save America Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2005. We cannot solve immigration by putting military on the border. We cannot solve it by the Minutemen. We cannot solve it by a bill that says deport everybody; that you do not want to have anyone to be a guest worker other than those who are already here legally.

We can solve it by protecting our borders and adding more resources to border protection. We can solve it by giving more dollars to Immigration, Customs and Enforcement, providing us with more than 800 of those so that we can have internal immigration reform or protection.

We can do it by doubling the amount of family visas, so that those individuals who are here, taxpaying immigrants who want to bring a mother, a daughter, or a husband will have the visas which will allow them to do so.

We can do what we call earned access to legalization. That is not amnesty. What it says is, if you are undocumented and here in the United States, get in line. Let us provide you with a method of earning access to legalization; no criminal record, be here 5 years, do community service and petition to be a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, are we not safer, is it not the right common-sense approach to protect us against terrorism to know who is in our country? Do my colleagues think we can deport the 8 million to 14 million who are here working in hotels and construction and as aids around America? Yes, the system was broken in order to allow the growth of such, but many of these people now have family members that are citizens and who have invested by buying homes and paying taxes.

So it is important to recognize that if we were to work and try to deport the 8 million to 14 million, only about 32,000 are done a year in terms of deportation hearings. All of them are subjected to appeals. You would be centuries trying to deport 8 million to 14 million who are here, and maybe that number is not even the number.

So my legislation, H.R. 2092, the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act, provides for the reunification of families by increasing the visa number. It also provides for the reuniting or the citizenship of children. It protects women against violence. It provides for the border security provisions, as I have mentioned, and it fixes this broken system of deportation. So that if you are in a deportation proceeding because of some small offense you created as a teenager, you would not be deported to a place you had never seen in your life. We need diversity visas, helping Haitians and Liberians.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we have a full debate on immigration, and I am delighted that the American people are common-sense and reasonable people. They know that immigration does not equate to terrorism; that in fact we can have a full debate, fix the broken system, work with those who have come to this country for opportunity, secure our borders, and fight against terrorism, but not condemn immigrants who are here, hard working. For many of us, many of us, some came in the bottom of the belly of a slave boat, but many of us came first to this country as an immigrant.

PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about something we are going to be going into this week, something that is of major importance to every man, woman, and child in the United States of America and around the world, and that is the USA PATRIOT Act, the reauthorization of some certain sections of that act, and the reexamination of the PATRIOT Act.

As we all know, it is no news to anybody that this Nation had the most heinous attack in its history on 9/11, and the question has been raised, why do we need a PATRIOT Act? As a judge for over 20 years, I believe it is necessary to give our law enforcement folks the tools and the resources that they need to protect our citizens and our citizens' rights. We do not need to create sanctuary for terrorists to operate in our country.

The USA PATRIOT Act removed major legal barriers that prevented law enforcement, intelligence, and national defense communities from taking and coordinating their work to protect the